



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Aging and Adult Services

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Karen E. Gottovi
Director

DAAS Administrative Letter No. 04-10

To: Area Agency on Aging Directors
Aging Service Providers

Subject: Revised Liquid Nutritional Supplements Policy, DAAS Nutrition Service Standards

Date: June 28, 2004

This memorandum is to serve as notification of the revision of participant eligibility for serving liquid nutritional supplements under the Older Americans Act. Per an Administration on Aging communication through the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services, nutrition program service providers may receive Home and Community Care Block Grant reimbursement for a liquid nutritional supplement only when:

- Served in addition to a complete congregate nutrition or home-delivered meal. May be counted as 2 meals but together they must provide 66% of the RDA.
- Replacing a meal based on assessed need as determined by the authorizing professional. Such products cannot replace conventional meals unless a disability or condition warrants their sole use. Liquid supplements may be served to participants who cannot tolerate solid foods or cannot chew food.

The intent of the Older Americans Act is to provide food, not supplements. It is inappropriate to substitute supplements for a meal if the client can tolerate solid foods even if the older adult is underweight, has a poor appetite, or is at high risk of malnutrition.

Providers who do serve liquid nutrition supplements must continue to comply with the current nutrition program standards.

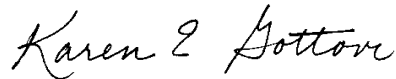
- ◆ Prior to distribution, a written authorization must be on file from one of the following professionals: a physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, registered nurse, or licensed dietitian/nutritionist.
- ◆ The nutrition provider must disclose to the professional who has authorized distribution the product's brand name, nutritional content of one serving and the amount that will be needed to constitute the required 1/3 RDA for reimbursement.

- ◆ The authorization must include name of recipient, reason why product is needed, amount and frequency of product to be provided, duration (not to exceed 6 months), name/signature/telephone number of the authorizing professional, and date of authorization.
- ◆ The use of NSIP money follows these same guidelines for reimbursement eligibility.
- ◆ Liquid Nutritional Supplement meals must still be submitted for reimbursement under service codes 182 (congregate) and 022 (home-delivered).

All nutrition program providers who are currently receiving Home and Community Care Block Grant reimbursement for liquid nutrition supplements must notify their Area Agency on Aging and modify their program, if appropriate, to ensure compliance with the Older Americans Act. Each plan of action must be completely implemented by September 30, 2004.

The Nutrition Program Service Standards have been revised to reflect these changes and should be downloaded from the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services website: <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/aging/nutrition.htm>. Please feel free to contact Audrey Edmisten, DAAS Nutrition Program Consultant, at 919-733-0440 if you have questions/concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen E. Gottovi".

Karen Gottovi
Division of Aging and Adult Services, Director

CC: DAAS Staff